

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub ~~while~~ with rotating the tub without introduction of laundry into the tub, wherein supplying water and rotating the tub are performed at the same time;

permeating water into contaminants;

removing contaminants stuck to a surface of the tub by rotating a tub or a pulsator in the tub;

soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period by holding the tub and the pulsator ~~water in the tub~~ stationary;

separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub; and

draining water from the tub.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub ~~while~~ with rotating the tub without introduction of laundry into the tub, wherein supplying water and rotating the tub are performed at the same time;

permeating water into contaminants;

removing contaminants stuck to a surface of the tub by rotating a tub or a pulsator in the tub;

soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period by holding the tub and the pulsator ~~water in the tub~~ stationary;

separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub; and

supplying water to the surface of the tub during draining thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants to the surface of the tub.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub ~~while~~ with rotating the tub without introduction of laundry into the tub, wherein supplying water and rotating the tub are performed at the same time;

permeating water into contaminants;

removing contaminants stuck to a surface of the tub by rotating a tub or a pulsator in the tub;

soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period by holding the tub and the pulsator ~~water in the tub~~ stationary;

separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub a first time;

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for a first time thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants to the surface of the tub;

supplying water to the tub a the second time;
rinsing the surface of the tub; and
draining water from the tub for a second time.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub ~~while~~ with rotating the tub without introduction of laundry into the tub, wherein supplying water and rotating the tub are performed at the same time;

permeating water into contaminants;

removing contaminants stuck to a surface of the tub by rotating a tub or a pulsator in the tub;

soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period by holding the tub and the pulsator ~~water in the tub~~ stationary;

separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub a first time;

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for the first time thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants to the surface of the tub;

supplying water to the tub for a second time;

rinsing the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub for a second time; and

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for the second time thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants to the surface of the tub.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for cleaning a tub of a washing machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying water to a tub ~~while~~ with rotating the tub without introduction of laundry into the tub, wherein supplying water and rotating the tub are performed at the same time;

permeating water into contaminants;

removing contaminants stuck to a surface of the tub by rotating a tub or a pulsator in the tub;

soaking the contaminants for a predetermined time period by holding the tub and the pulsator ~~water in the tub~~ stationary;

separating soaked contaminants from the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub for a first time;

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for the first time thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants to the surface of the tub;

supplying water to the tub for a second time;

rinsing the surface of the tub;

draining water from the tub for a second time;

supplying water to the surface of the tub during the step of draining water from the tub for the second time thereby preventing re-sticking of the contaminants to the surface of the tub;
and

rotating the tub at a high speed thereby removing water from the surface of the tub.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of permeating water comprises rotating a pulsator provided in the tub for forming a water circulation.

8. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of permeating water further includes rotating the tub for forming a water circulation.

9. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of permeating water further includes rotating the tub at a high speed thereby circulating water in a radial direction of the tub.

10. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of permeating water further includes rotating a pulsator and, rotating the tub at a low speed.

11. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step of supplying water to the surface of the tub is performed during a later half of the draining step.

12. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step of supplying water to the surface of the tub further includes rotating the tub while water is supplied to the tub.

13. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step of supplying water to the surface of the tub further includes spraying water to the surface of the tub.

14. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of rotating the tub at a high speed thereby removing water from the surface of the tub.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of introducing a bleaching agent into the tub during supplying the water to the tub such that the water and the bleaching agent are supplied to the tub together.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the bleaching agent is an oxygen group bleaching agent.

17. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the bleaching agent is a halide group bleaching agent.

18. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of introducing at least one sterilizing agent and a fungicidal agent.

19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the sterilizing agent is halogenated hydantoin compound that emits hypohalogenated acid.

20. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a tub cleaning course which is under progress on a display of the washing machine during tub cleaning.

21. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying an accumulated number of washing courses performed by the washing machine after tub cleaning on a display of the washing machine.

22. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying an accumulated number of washing courses performed by the washing machine after of tub cleaning, and a target number of washing courses to be performed before the next tub cleaning on a display of the washing machine.

23. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the target number can be changed.

24. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the steps of tub cleaning are performed when a user manually selects a tub cleaning course when the accumulated number of washing courses reaches the target number of washing courses.

25. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the steps of tub cleaning are performed automatically when the accumulated number of washing courses reaches the target number of washing courses.

26. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of setting a mode where a user manually selects a tub cleaning course when the accumulated number of washing courses performed by the washing machine displayed on the display of the washing machine reaches a target number of washing courses to be performed before the next tub cleaning.

27. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of setting a time to automatically perform a tub cleaning at the washing machine.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of setting a mode where tub cleaning automatically progresses.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating the tub for forming a water circulation.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating the tub at a high speed thereby circulating water in a radial direction of the tub.

31. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of permeating water further includes rotating a pulsator and rotating the tub at a high speed.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of permeating water further includes rotating the tub at a low speed and rotating the tub at a high speed.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating a pulsator and rotating the tub at a low speed.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating a pulsator and rotating the tub at a high speed.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of separating contaminants further includes rotating the tub at a low speed and rotating the tub at a high speed.

36. - 40. (Canceled)